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STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS AND THE GENERAL SITUATION OF OVERDUE REPORTS

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report contains updated information on the status of the international human rights instruments and the general situation of overdue reports as at 1 September 1992 in regard to the following seven instruments:

(a) The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1966 and entered into force on 3 January 1976;

(b) The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1966 and entered into force on 23 March 1976;

(c) The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 1965 and entered into force on 4 January 1969;

(d) The International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (APARTH), adopted by the General Assembly on 30 November 1973 and entered into force on 18 July 1976;

GE.92-17669 (E)

(e) The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 1979 and entered into force on 3 September 1981;

(f) The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1984 and entered into force on 26 June 1987; and

(g) The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1989 and entered into force on 2 September 1990.

2. The system of reporting under the seven instruments as at 1 September 1992 involved 164 States as compared with 150 in 1990 that were parties to at least one of these instruments. The number of overdue reports of these States parties totalled 871 (as compared to 767).

3. Table 1 below shows the total number of States parties to the seven instruments as at 1 September and at 1 August 1990 (for the sake of comparison) and the number of overdue reports under each instrument.

4. It should be noted that, although article 9 (1) of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination specifies a periodicity of one year for initial reports and every two years thereafter for periodic reports, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination decided at its forty-third session on a new arrangement for the submission of periodic reports. Accordingly, after the submission of initial comprehensive reports to the Committee, States are to submit further comprehensive reports on every second occasion thereafter, when reports are due (i.e. every four years), and to submit brief updating reports on the intervening occasions.

5. It should also be noted, with respect to the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Group of Three (APARTH) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), that successive overdue reports may be submitted in a single consolidated document. This practice has also been followed by the Committee against Torture (CAT), which reviews the situation of overdue reports on a case-by-case basis.

6. Table 2 below lists the States parties to the various instruments and the number of overdue reports under each instrument. The total number of instruments to which a given State is a party and the total number of overdue reports of each State is also given. An "x" indicates that the State is not a party to the instrument concerned.

7. Since the Third meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies, there has been a significant increase in the number of States parties to the human rights instruments. As at 1 September 1992, there were a total of 762 1/ States parties, as compared to 561 States parties as at 1 August 1990.

8. Presently, 19 of the 179 Member States of the United Nations are not a party to any of the seven human rights instruments. Those States are the following: Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vanuatu.

1/ Includes 122 States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which came into force on 2 September 1990.

Table 1

International Instrument	1 September 1992 States parties	(overdue reports)	1 August 1990 States parties	(overdue reports)
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	116	70	97	147
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	113	69	92	51
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	132	336	129	254
International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid	94	246	88	233
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	117	116	103	71
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	68	34	52	11
Convention on the Rights of the Child	122	a/	-	-

a/ No reports were overdue since the Convention entered into force on 2 September 1990 and initial reports are not due until two years after ratification.

Table 2

	CESCR	CCPR	CERD	APARTH	CEDAW	CAT	CRC	TOTAL Instr/rep
Periodicity of reporting:								
Initial	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	
Thereafter	5	5	2	4	4	4	4	
Afghanistan	0	0	4	2	x	1	x	5 / 7
Albania	0	0	x	x	x	x	0	3 / 0
Algeria	1	0	0	1	x	0	x	5 / 2
Angola	0	0	x	x	2	x	0	4 / 2
Antigua and Barbuda	x	x	2	3	1	x	x	3 / 6
Argentina	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	7 / 4
Australia	0	1	0	x	0	0	0	6 / 1
Austria	1	0	0	x	1	1	0	6 / 3
Azerbaijan	0	0	x	x	x	x	0	3 / 0
Bahamas	x	x	5	4	x	x	0	3 / 9
Bahrain	x	x	1	1	x	x	0	3 / 2
Bangladesh	x	x	1	1	0	x	0	4 / 2
Barbados	1	1	3	3	1	x	0	6 / 9
Belarus	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	7 / 5
Belgium	1	0	0	x	0	x	0	5 / 1
Belize	x	x	x	x	1	1	0	3 / 2
Benin	0	0	x	5	0	0	0	6 / 5
Bhutan	x	x	x	x	3	x	0	2 / 3
Bolivia	1	1	4	0	0	x	0	6 / 6
Botswana	x	x	4	x	x	x	x	1 / 4
Brazil	0	0	3	x	2	1	0	6 / 6
Bulgaria	1	2	1	0	2	1	0	7 / 7
Burkina Faso	x	x	4	4	0	x	0	4 / 8
Burundi	1	0	1	3	0	x	0	6 / 5
Cambodia	0	0	3	4	x	x	x	4 / 7
Cameroon	1	1	2	5	x	1	x	5 / 10
Canada	0	0	1	x	0	1	0	6 / 2
Cape Verde	x	x	4	2	3	0	0	5 / 9
Central African Republic	1	1	4	4	1	x	0	6 / 11
Chad	x	x	4	1	x	x	0	3 / 5
Chile	1	0	0	x	0	0	0	6 / 1
China	x	x	1	0	1	0	0	5 / 2
Colombia	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	7 / 2
Congo	1	1	2	3	3	x	x	5 / 10
Costa Rica	0	1	1	1	2	x	0	6 / 5

	CESCR	CCPR	CERD	APARTH	CEDAW	CAT	CRC	TOTAL Instr/rep
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	6	x	x	x	0	4 / 6
Croatia	x	x	x	x	0	x	x	1 / 0
Cuba	x	x	1	1	0	x	0	4 / 2
Cyprus	1	2	2	x	2	1	0	6 / 8
Czech and Slovak Federal Republic	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	7 / 5
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1	1	x	x	x	x	0	3 / 2
Denmark	1	1	1	x	1	1	0	6 / 5
Djibouti	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	1 / 0
Dominica	x	x	x	x	3	x	0	2 / 3
Dominican Republic	0	0	0	x	2	x	0	5 / 2
Ecuador	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	7 / 3
Egypt	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	7 / 6
El Salvador	1	2	4	2	1	x	0	6 / 10
Equatorial Guinea	1	2	x	x	1	x	0	4 / 4
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7 / 0
Ethiopia	x	x	2	4	3	x	0	4 / 9
Fiji	x	x	5	x	x	x	x	1 / 5
Finland	0	0	1	x	1	0	0	6 / 2
France	1	1	3	x	1	1	0	6 / 7
Gabon	1	2	5	3	2	x	x	5 / 13
Gambia	1	2	6	5	x	x	0	5 / 14
Germany	0	0	2	x	1	0	0	6 / 3
Ghana	x	x	1	5	1	x	0	4 / 7
Greece	1	x	3	x	2	0	x	4 / 6
Grenada	0	0	x	x	1	x	0	4 / 1
Guatemala	1	0	4	x	0	1	0	6 / 6
Guinea	1	0	7	6	3	1	0	7 / 18
Guinea-Bissau	0	x	x	x	2	x	0	3 / 2
Guyana	1	2	8	6	2	1	0	7 / 20
Haiti	x	1	1	6	3	x	x	4 / 11
Holy See	x	x	2	x	x	x	0	2 / 2
Honduras	1	x	x	x	1	x	0	3 / 2
Hungary	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	7 / 5
Iceland	0	1	3	x	2	x	x	4 / 6
India	1	1	3	3	x	x	x	4 / 8
Indonesia	x	x	x	x	1	x	0	2 / 1
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0	1	4	2	x	x	x	4 / 7
Iraq	1	0	1	2	1	x	x	5 / 5
Ireland	1	0	x	x	1	x	x	3 / 2
Israel	0	0	1	x	0	0	0	6 / 1

	CESCR	CCPR	CERD	APARTH	CEDAW	CAT	CRC	TOTAL Instr/rep
Italy	0	1	1	x	1	0	0	6 / 3
Jamaica	0	2	4	5	1	x	0	6 / 12
Japan	1	0	x	x	0	x	x	3 / 1
Jordan	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	7 / 2
Kenya	1	2	x	x	0	x	0	4 / 3
Kuwait	x	x	3	5	x	x	0	3 / 8
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	x	x	4	4	3	x	0	4 / 11
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7 / 0
Lebanon	1	2	5	x	x	x	0	4 / 8
Lesotho	x	x	4	2	x	x	0	3 / 6
Liberia	x	x	8	6	2	x	x	3 / 16
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1	2	2	7	0	0	x	6 / 12
Lithuania	0	0	x	x	x	x	0	3 / 0
Liechtenstein	x	x	x	x	x	1	x	1 / 1
Luxembourg	0	0	0	x	1	0	x	5 / 1
Madagascar	1	1	3	4	0	x	0	6 / 9
Malawi	x	x	x	x	1	x	0	2 / 1
Maldives	x	x	0	1	x	x	0	3 / 1
Mali	1	2	3	5	1	x	0	6 / 12
Malta	1	1	2	x	0	1	0	6 / 5
Mauritania	x	x	2	1	x	x	0	3 / 3
Mauritius	1	1	3	x	2	x	0	5 / 7
Mexico	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	7 / 3
Monaco	x	x	x	x	x	0	x	1 / 0
Mongolia	1	0	1	3	1	x	0	6 / 6
Morocco	1	0	3	x	x	x	x	3 / 4
Mozambique	x	x	4	2	x	x	x	2 / 6
Myanmar	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	1 / 0
Namibia	x	x	3	2	x	x	0	3 / 5
Nepal	0	1	3	6	0	1	0	7 / 11
Netherlands	1	1	1	x	0	0	x	5 / 3
New Zealand	0	1	1	x	1	0	x	5 / 3
Nicaragua	0	1	3	4	1	x	0	6 / 9
Niger	1	1	2	6	x	x	0	5 / 10
Nigeria	x	x	3	4	1	x	0	4 / 8
Norway	0	0	2	x	0	0	0	6 / 2
Oman	x	x	x	0	x	x	x	1 / 0
Pakistan	x	x	3	1	x	x	0	3 / 4
Panama	1	1	3	0	2	0	0	7 / 7
Papua New Guinea	x	x	4	x	x	x	x	1 / 4

	CESCR	CCPR	CERD	APARTH	CEDAW	CAT	CRC	TOTAL Instr/rep
Paraguay	0	0	x	x	2	1	0	5 / 3
Peru	1	0	3	2	1	1	0	7 / 8
Philippines	1	0	2	4	1	1	0	7 / 9
Poland	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	7 / 3
Portugal	1	1	1	x	0	1	0	6 / 4
Qatar	x	x	1	1	x	x	x	2 / 2
Republic of Korea	1	0	1	x	0	x	0	5 / 2
Romania	1	1	3	3	2	0	0	7 / 10
Russian Federation	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	7 / 3
Rwanda	1	1	2	2	0	x	0	6 / 6
Saint Kitts and Nevis	x	x	x	x	2	x	0	2 / 2
Saint Lucia	x	x	1	x	2	x	x	2 / 3
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	1	1	4	3	2	x	x	5 / 11
San Marino	1	1	x	x	x	x	0	3 / 2
Sao Tomé and Principe	x	x	x	4	x	x	0	2 / 4
Senegal	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	7 / 4
Seychelles	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	7 / 7
Sierra Leone	x	x	10	x	0	x	0	3 / 10
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	x	0	6 / 0
Solomon Islands	1	x	4	x	x	x	x	2 / 5
Somalia	1	1	4	6	x	1	x	5 / 13
Spain	0	0	3	x	0	0	0	6 / 3
Sri Lanka	1	1	3	3	1	x	0	6 / 9
Sudan	1	1	4	6	x	x	0	5 / 12
Suriname	1	2	4	3	x	x	x	4 / 10
Swaziland	x	x	9	x	x	x	x	1 / 9
Sweden	0	0	0	x	0	1	0	6 / 1
Switzerland	0	0	x	x	x	1	x	3 / 1
Syrian Arab Rep.	0	2	1	2	x	x	x	4 / 5
Thailand	x	x	x	x	1	x	0	2 / 1
Togo	1	1	5	2	2	1	0	7 / 12
Tonga	x	x	2	x	x	x	x	1 / 2
Trinidad and Tobago	0	1	3	3	1	x	0	6 / 8
Tunisia	1	0	4	0	2	0	0	7 / 7
Turkey	x	x	x	x	1	0	x	2 / 1

	CESCR	CCPR	CERD	APARTH	CEDAW	CAT	CRC	TOTAL Instr/rep
Uganda	1	x	5	2	2	2	0	6 / 12
Ukraine	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	7 / 3
United Arab Emirates	x	x	3	3	x	x	x	2 / 6
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1	0	1	x	0	0	0	6 / 2
United Republic of Tanzania	1	1	3	6	0	x	0	6 / 11
United States of America	x	0	x	x	x	x	x	1 / 0
Uruguay	0	0	1	x	2	1	0	6 / 4
Venezuela	1	1	3	0	1	1	0	7 / 7
Viet Nam	0	1	4	4	2	x	0	6 / 11
Yemen	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6 / 2
Yugoslavia	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	7 / 6
Zaire	1	1	6	6	2	x	0	6 / 16
Zambia	1	1	4	2	0	x	0	6 / 8
Zimbabwe	0	1	1	0	0	x	0	6 / 2
TOTAL NUMBER OF OVERDUE REPORTS	70	69	336	246	116	34	0	871
TOTAL NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES	116	113	132	94	117	68	122	762